

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 15-209

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Title:** Body condition analysis for Unit 12A West in spring 2016

**Region and Game Management Unit:** Region 2, Unit 12A West

**Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):**

- Arizona Strip Working Group

**Was the project presented to the LHPC?**

**YES**☒ **NO**☐

**Has this project been submitted in previous years?** **YES**☒ **NO**☐

**If Yes, was it funded?** **YES**☒ **NO**☐ → **Funded HPC Project #(s):** 09-705, 10-703, 14-203

**Project Type:** Monitoring

**Brief Project Summary:** During March or April 2016, the Department will capture 30-40 mule deer on winter-range in Unit 12A West for measuring and evaluating body condition. Body condition tests will be conducted by the Department's wildlife health staff. Body condition results will be compared with the estimated number of mule deer on the winter-range. Similar monitoring was conducted from 2010-2012 and 2015. To maintain proficiency at measuring deer condition, we need to conduct testing each year, according to the technique experts.

**Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:** Mule deer

**Implementation Schedule** (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:

March 2016

Project End Date:

May 2016

**Environmental Compliance:**

NEPA Completed: Yes☐ No☐ N/A☒

Projected Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes☐ No☐ N/A☒

Projected Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A☐

To be Completed by: Tom McCall

Projected Completion Date: 7/31/2016

**PROJECT FUNDING**

**Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:**

\$ 34,000.00

**Cost Share or Matching Funds:**

\$ 9,000.00 – Primarily capture and processing personnel time and materials.

**Total Project Costs:**

**\$ 43,000.00**

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

**Applicant** (please print):

Tom McCall

**Address:**

Arizona Game and Fish Dept.

3500 S. Lake Mary Rd.

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**E-mail:**

tmccall@azgfd.gov

**Telephone:** (928) 214-1248

**Date:** 8/27/15

**AGFD Contact and Phone No.** (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

**Project has been coordinated with:**

Game Branch, Region 2, Arizona Deer Association

**NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

As part of the proposed monitoring of mule deer on the Unit 12A West winter-range, the Department proposes to monitor body condition to correlate with the growth of the population and habitat monitoring to develop relationships that may be used in future situations to assess mule deer population levels. This body condition testing will continue contingent on a discussion and approval among staff during fall 2015.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

Determine body condition of mule deer during March or April on Unit 12A West winter-range.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:**

Capture, test, and release live mule deer to determine relative body condition.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

Unit 12A West mule deer winter-range.

**LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):**

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

**USFS Kaibab Ranger District.**

*IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or  
LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?*  
YES[] NO[] N/A[x]

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

Sagebrush, cliffrose, pinyon, and juniper winter range.

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Tag funds will be used to pay helicopter expenses for Department personnel to capture 40 mule deer, on which the Department will use ultrasonography to test rump fat.

Helicopter Costs - A-Star preferred helicopter for capture

Capture – 3 days @ 6 hrs/day @ \$1,700.06/hr = \$30,601

Ferry – 2 hrs @ \$978.50 = \$1,957

Fuel truck – 700 miles @ \$2.06/mile = \$1,442

Total = \$34,000

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

Department personnel will capture and process deer. Volunteers will assist with processing of deer.

### **LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

Primarily financial cooperation will come from Department funds for equipment, personnel, and vehicle use. Arizona Deer Association and Mule Deer Foundation representatives may participate and assist in operation. USFS biologists may participate as well.

### **WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?**

YES[] NO[x] N/A[]

### **PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

As part of the proposed hunt guidelines, these data will be monitored along with annual herd composition and habitat measurements and periodic population estimates (to recalibrate population models) and range trend analysis to develop future hunt guidelines.

### **PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

N/A

### **PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

This will be submitted as part of the annual performance reporting through the game subprogram. Completion will be Regional responsibility.